

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER
2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African
Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in
Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on
HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is
relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be
downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin
mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE RaDAR CHALLENGE ON 7 NOVEMBER

THE DRAFT 2021 SARL BLUE BOOK

and

CONTEST NEWS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin this morning with news of two silent keys

It is with deep regret that we announce that the keys of Tony Crowder, ZS6CRO
and Louis Roodt, ZS6CAU went silent in the past week.

Tony was a member of the Pretoria ARC and served as the auditor of the Club.
He was well known in the rally community. We extend our sincere condolences
to his wife Sue, family and friends.

Louis passed away on Tuesday 27 October after a long battle with cancer. He served on the committee of the old Southern Transvaal Branch and was a founding member of the Vaal Triangle Branch. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Engela, sons Michael, ZS4BHF and Johan, ZS1JCR, grandson Steven, ZR6TJ, family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE RaDAR CHALLENGE ON 7 NOVEMBER

The third RaDAR Challenge for 2020 takes place from 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on Saturday 7 November 2020. It is a 24-hour activity, but you only need to operate for 4 hours, you choose the 4 hours. You may use all amateur bands including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. Modes – CW, SSB, FM or any legal amateur radio digital mode.

The RaDAR challenge requires more than a minimalistic information exchange. Accurate information exchange is considered more important than a large QSO count. Call sign, name, RS (T) report and grid locator. The grid locator of six characters is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 8 or 10 characters for higher position accuracy (especially for moving RaDAR stations).

Get all the information on page 27 of the 2020 Blue Book.

THE DRAFT 2021 SARL BLUE BOOK

Thank you to the Clubs and Groups who responded with updates, comments and suggestions for the 2021 Blue Book. The 46 Long Distance VHF/UHF WhatsApp Group has revamped the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue and Digital contests as well as the SARL VHF/UHF FM contest. Unfortunately, several contests will not be on the calendar for 2021 as no sponsors came forward to host these contests.

The updates, comments and suggestions will now be refined in the 2021 Blue Book. A further draft copy will be made available for a final check before the 2021 Blue Book is published.

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CONTEST NEWS

The second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest will take place from 12:00 UTC Saturday 14 November to 08:00 UTC Sunday 15 November 2020. Turn to page 46 of the 2020 Blue Book for the rules.

The sixth leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint takes place from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 18 November. And the second leg of the SARL Newbie Party is on the air from 08:00 to 20:00 UTC on Saturday 21 November. Turn to pages 64 and 40 of the 2020 Blue Book for the rules.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently two sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. These sunspots may produce some C-class solar flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around seven. The 12 to 30 m bands will, especially during the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. The 10 m band may also have some surprises during the afternoons. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

- 07 November – The RaDAR Challenge
- 14 November – The Overberg ARC year-end function
- 14 and 15 November – The SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest
- 18 November – The SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint
- 21 November – The SARL Newbie Party
- 28 and 29 November – The CQ WW DX CW contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The third RaDAR Challenge for 2020 takes place from 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on Saturday 7 November 2020. It is a 24-hour activity, but you only need to operate for 4 hours, you choose the 4 hours.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS/1, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.

Download this bulletin from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>

Something else I thought about that we can add in the bulletins. What about a more local kind of insert of less factual importance, but where we can bring in what happened in ZA. The Human Factor. Like say, did you know there is a new Telegram group created for ZA Radio Amateurs called *Blah-Blah* where you can join.... Or this week quite some people managed EU contacts on 15 metres ... or the BFN guys did a total revamp of the repeater tower that kind of local snippets to try and get more interaction amongst us lot or sharing of trivial info.

Laa hierdie bulletin af vanaf <https://sarnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>